TO: ALL OFFICES

SUBJECT: MANUAL MATERIAL

OAC 340:10-3-40; 10-10-5; 10-10-7; and 10-15-1.

EXPLANATION: Policy revisions were approved by the Commission and the Governor as required by the Administrative Procedures Act.

OAC 340:10-3-40 revisions clarify what educational assistance is disregarded as income.

OAC 340:10-10-5 revisions: (1) clarify how child support received in excess of monthly current ordered support is considered; (2) remove outdated language; and (3) update language to current terminology.

OAC 340:10-10-7 revisions: (1) clarify how child support received in excess of monthly current ordered support is considered; and (2) update language to current terminology.

OAC 340:10-15-1 revisions update eligibility for Iraqis and Afghans admitted as special immigrants for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefit.
INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING MANUAL MATERIAL

OAC is the acronym for Oklahoma Administrative Code. If OAC appears before a number on an Appendix or before a Section in text, it means the Appendix or text contains rules or administrative law. Lengthy internal policies and procedures have the same Chapter number as the OAC Chapter to which they pertain following an "OKDHS" number, such as personnel policy at OKDHS:2-1 and personnel rules at OAC 340:2-1. The "340" is the Title number that designates OKDHS as the rulemaking agency; the "2" specifies the Chapter number; and the "1" specifies the Subchapter number.

The chronological order for filing manual material is: (1) OAC 340 by designated Chapter and Subchapter number; (2) if applicable, OKDHS numbered text for the designated Chapter and Subchapter; and (3) all OAC Appendices with the designated Chapter number. For example, the order for filing personnel policy is OAC 340:2-1, OKDHS:2-1, and OAC 340:2 Appendices behind all Chapter 2 manual material. Any questions or assistance with filing manual material will be addressed by contacting Policy Management Unit staff at 405-521-4326.

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340:10-3-40. Income disregards

Revised 7-1-10

Income that is disregarded in determining eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is:

(1) the food benefit allotment under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008;

(2) any payment received under Title II of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970;

(3) educational assistance including grants, work study, scholarships, fellowships, educational loans on which payment is deferred, veterans education benefits, and the like if receipt is contingent upon the student regularly attending school and the money received is intended to offset the costs of education and expenses as identified by the institution, school, program, or other grantor. If the money is not intended to be a reimbursement and is a gain to the client, it is considered income. When the educational assistance is serving the same purpose as TANF cash assistance such as when the client receives a stipend for living expenses, the stipend is countable income. The student's classification as a graduate or undergraduate is not a factor;

(4) loans, regardless of use, if a bona fide debt or obligation to pay can be established.

(A) Criteria to establish a loan as bona fide includes an acknowledgment of obligation to repay or evidence that the loan was from a person or financial institution in the loan business.

(B) If the loan was from a person(s) not in the loan business, the borrower's acknowledgment of obligation to repay, with or without interest, is required to indicate that the loan is bona fide.

(C) If the loan agreement is not written, Form 08AD103E, Loan Verification, must be completed by the borrower attesting that the loan is bona fide and signed by the lender verifying the date and amount of loan.

(D) When copies of written agreements or Form 08AD103E are not available, detailed case documentation must include information that the loan is bona fide and how the debt amount and date of receipt was verified;
(5) Indian payments, which include judgment funds or funds held in trust, distributed per capita by the Secretary of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or distributed by the tribe subject to approval by the Secretary of the Interior. For purposes of this paragraph, per capita is defined as each tribal member receiving an equal amount.

   (A) Any interest or investment income accrued on such funds while held in trust or any purchases made with judgment funds, trust funds, interest, or investment income accrued on such funds is disregarded.

   (B) Any income from mineral leases or from tribal business investments is disregarded as long as the payments are paid per capita.

   (C) Any interest or income derived from the principal or produced by purchases made with the funds after distribution is considered as any other income;

(6) special allowance(s) for school expenses made available upon petition in writing from trust funds of the student;

(7) income from trusts of a child(ren) included in a TANF benefit if it is determined by the worker that funds are to be used for educational purposes for the child(ren). Any court established trust must be examined to determine if the court has restricted the trust for other purposes. The worker must verify at application and redetermination if funds have been withdrawn. Any funds withdrawn are treated as lump sum unearned income unless it can be documented the funds were used for the child(ren)’s educational purposes;

(8) income from accounts, stocks, and bonds held under the control of a third party if the funds are designated for educational purposes for a child(ren) in a TANF benefit even if the child(ren)’s name is on the account and the third party holder is required to access the funds;

(9) benefits from state and community programs on aging from Title III and Title V. Title III and Title V are under the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965 amended by Public Law (P.L.) 100-175 to become the OAA as amended 2000. Each state and various organizations receive some Title V funds. These organizations include:

   (A) Experience Works;

   (B) National Council on Aging;

   (C) National Council of Senior Citizens;
(D) American Association of Retired Persons (AARP);

(E) United States (US) Forest Service;

(F) National Association for Spanish Speaking Elderly;

(G) National Urban League;

(H) National Council on Black Aging; and

(I) National Council on Indian Aging.

(10) unearned income received by a child(ren) in a TANF benefit, such as a needs based payment, cash assistance, compensation in lieu of wages, or allowance from a program funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) including Job Corps income and WIA earned income received as wages;

(11) payments for supportive services or reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses made to individual volunteers serving as foster grandparents, senior health aides, or senior companions, and to persons serving in the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and Active Corps of Executives (ACE);

(12) payments to volunteers under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (NCSTA), unless the gross amount of AmeriCorps*VISTA payments equals or exceeds the state or federal minimum wage, whichever is greater; 5

(13) the value of supplemental food assistance received under the Child Nutrition Act or the special food service program for children under the National School Lunch Act;

(14) any portion of payments, made under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to an Alaska Native, which are exempt from taxation under the Settlement Act;

(15) any income of an adult or child(ren) in the family group living in the home and receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is not considered in determining the TANF benefit. His or her individual income is considered by the Social Security Administration in determining eligibility for SSI. This includes any payment made by the Developmental Disabilities Services Division through the Family Support Assistance Payment Program on behalf of a child(ren) receiving SSI and any other earned or unearned income of the person;

(16) Experimental Housing Allowance Program (EHAP) payments made under
Annual Contributions Contracts entered into prior to January 1, 1975, under Section 23 of the US Housing Act of 1937, as amended;

(17) earnings of a child(ren) in a TANF benefit who is a full-time student;

(18) government rental or housing subsidies by governmental agencies, for example, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which are received in-kind or in cash for rent, mortgage payments, or utilities;

(19) reimbursements from an employer, the Department of Labor, or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, for out-of-pocket expenditures and allowances for travel, training, meals, or supplies, which could include uniforms, to the extent the funds are used for expenses directly related to such travel, training, meals or supplies;

(20) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) payments for energy assistance and payments for emergency situations under Emergency Assistance to Needy Families with Children;

(21) advance payments of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or refunds of EITC as a result of filing a federal income tax return;

(22) refunds of state EITC as a result of filing a state income tax return;

(23) payments made from the Agent Orange Settlement Fund or any other fund established pursuant to the settlement in the In Re Agent Orange product liability litigation, M.D.L. No. 381 (E.D.N.Y.);

(24) payments made from the Radiation Exposure Compensation Trust Fund as compensation for injuries or deaths resulting from the exposure to radiation from nuclear testing and uranium mining;

(25) federal major disaster and emergency assistance provided by Section 5515(d) of Title 42 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) and comparable disaster assistance provided by states, local governments, and disaster assistance organizations;

(26) interests of individual Indians in trust or restricted lands;

(27) income up to $2,000 per calendar year received by individual Indians, which is derived from leases or other uses of individually owned trust or restricted lands. Any remaining disbursements from the trust or the restricted lands are considered as unearned income;
(28) payments received under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. These payments are made to persons of Japanese ancestry who were detained in internment camps during World War II;

(29) payments made to persons because of their status as victims of Nazi persecution;

(30) interest accrued from the deposits made by an person into an Individual Development Account (IDA) up to $2,000; ■ 6

(31) stipends paid to students participating in the Indian Vocational Education Program (IVEP) through the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act;

(32) payments made from the crime victims compensation program as amended in section 1403 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, Section 10602 of Title 42 of the U.S.C.;

(33) reimbursements made to a foster care parent(s) or a potential foster care parent(s) ■ 7; and

(34) payments as described in Section 1823(c) of Title 38 of the U.S.C. provided to certain persons who are children of Vietnam War veterans.

INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF 340:10-3-40

Revised 7-1-10

1. Exempt student income includes:

   (1) any money from Title IV of the Higher Education Act including federal or state work study;

   (2) educational assistance funded through the Veterans Affairs (VA) such as the Montgomery GI Bill;

   (3) grants;

   (4) scholarships;

   (5) subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans;
(6) federal PLUS loans;

(7) TRIO grants;

(8) Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program;

(9) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) student assistance; and

(10) money from the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act.

2. Student income that is not exempt includes:

(1) money that is paid directly to the student and not sent through the bursar's account other than funds listed in Instructions to Staff #1 of this Section;

(2) institutional work study; or

(3) money intended as an incentive for school attendance or grades rather than the school expenses.

3. See OAC 340:10-3-6 for trust accounts policy.

4. See OAC 340:10-3-28 for lump sum payments policy.

5. See OAC 340:10-2-4(c)(2) for on-the-job training.


7. Such as a pre-service training stipend or Kinship Start Up Stipend (KSUS) payment. See OAC 340:75-7-24.
340:10-10-5. Requirement for assignment of support rights and cooperation

Revised 7-1-10

(a) As a condition of eligibility, when the reason for deprivation is absence, each applicant or recipient of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) must assign to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) any support rights, including cash medical, that is pending or continuing for any family member included in the assistance unit. This assignment excludes amounts ordered for past due or judgment amounts for persons who have never received TANF prior to this application. For persons who have previously received TANF, the assignment includes past due or judgment amounts previously assigned to OKDHS for the period of time the applicant received TANF. Failure to assign support rights makes the assistance unit ineligible for TANF.

(b) As a condition of eligibility for TANF, each applicant or recipient must cooperate with OKDHS in obtaining support for each child of the individual. Failure of the applicant or recipient to cooperate without good cause may be indicated either during the intake interview or at any time further action by the recipient is necessary. ■ 1

(c) If the applicant or recipient refuses to cooperate with OKDHS without good cause, the cash assistance must be reduced by 25% of the TANF payment standard the next effective date. ■ 2

(d) The Oklahoma Child Support Services (OCSS) district office makes the determination that an individual is not cooperating in establishing paternity or in establishing, modifying, or enforcing a support order as required by Section 454(29) of the Social Security Act. ■ 3 Non-cooperation is indicated by:

(1) failure to appear at a OCSS district office to provide information or evidence relevant to the case;

(2) refusal to complete and sign documents necessary to take legal action against the absent parent(s) when requested to do so by the OCSS district office;

(3) failure to comply with an order for genetic testing for the individual and the appropriate child to determine paternity;

(4) failure to appear as a witness at an administrative or district court hearing or other proceeding when cooperation is essential for the next step in providing child support services;
(5) failure to provide information, or attest to lack of information, under penalty of perjury;

(6) failure to forward to OCSS all child support payments received from the absent parent(s) after receiving the initial TANF benefit;

(7) refusal to make a repayment agreement or to comply with a repayment plan when child support payments are retained; and

(8) failure to notify OCSS of the pursuit of private legal action affecting the status or amount of a support obligation.

(e) When OCSS determines the individual is cooperating, the worker is notified and the 25% penalty is removed the next effective date.

INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF 340:10-10-5

Revised 7-1-10

1. If the worker becomes aware of a client's apparent non-cooperation, the worker notifies the local Oklahoma Child Support Services (OCSS) district office.

2. (a) The 25% penalty only applies if the applicant or recipient is the natural or adoptive parent of the child(ren). The 25% penalty applies to adult only cases when the child(ren) is receiving State Supplemental Payment (SSP) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). If the adult is receiving SSP and/or SSI, and fails to cooperate with OCSS, the 25% penalty is coded on the child(ren) in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefit.

(b) OAC 317:35-5-7 states the TANF applicant or recipient is not included in the health benefit if good cause has not been determined by OCSS. The worker updates the Family Assistance/Client Services (FACS) Household tab for the SoonerCare (Medicaid) benefit to show "Income and resources are considered. Not included in the benefit." This does not apply to an applicant or recipient who is receiving pregnancy related services or is under age 19. When good cause has been approved and the applicant or recipient who has been removed from the SoonerCare (Medicaid) benefit agrees to cooperate, the worker updates the FACS Household tab for the SoonerCare (Medicaid) benefit to show "Added to the benefit."

4. Refer to OAC 340:10-3-57(g).
340:10-10-7. Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) responsibilities in relation to support payments

Revised 7-1-10

(a) Referral to Oklahoma Child Support Services (OCSS). Federal regulations require referral to OCSS no later than two working days after the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefit is issued based on deprivation due to absence. The appropriate completed OCSS forms supplement the computer-generated referral and are submitted, with the exception of good cause, to OCSS. Information which may have an effect on support enforcement may become known after the OCSS district office referral has been made. 1

(b) Receipt of child support or spousal support. For purposes of this Subchapter, child support is defined as voluntary monetary contributions or court-ordered obligations. When a child support order also contains an order for spousal support which may be referred to as alimony or support alimony in Oklahoma, the obligation for spousal support must also be assigned to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). At the application interview, the applicant is informed of the responsibility to forward to the Oklahoma Centralized Support Registry (OCSR) any support payments received from the absent parent(s) after TANF certification. 2

(1) Payments received during application period. All child support payments reported by an applicant during the time prior to certification are considered as income. For purposes of rules in this Chapter, certification is considered the date of the supervisor’s signature authorizing payment. Support anticipated to be received after certification is not considered as the client has agreed by signing the application to submit any future payments to OCSR. 3

(2) Payments received after certification. Any support payments brought to the human services center (HSC) by the client after certification must be forwarded to OCSR. Payments are not sent in the form of cash. When OCSS receives child support in excess of the monthly court ordered amount, the excess payment may be sent to the client. The client receives this excess amount and it is considered as unearned income.

(3) Retained support payments. If the worker becomes aware that the client has retained assigned support payments, the OCSS district office is contacted with this information.

(A) The client is considered as not cooperating if:
(i) assigned support paid directly to the client is retained;

(ii) he or she refuses to repay a retained support overpayment in full or sign a repayment plan;

(iii) he or she fails to make payments according to the repayment agreement; or

(iv) he or she retains assigned direct support payment even if any overpayment has beenrepaid in full or a repayment plan is being followed.

(B) The OCSS district office determines whether non-cooperation has occurred and notifies the worker. When non-cooperation is determined, the TANF cash assistance is reduced by 25% of the TANF payment standard and the support is considered as income the next effective date.

(C) When notified by OCSS that the client has resumed cooperation, the worker removes the 25% penalty and no longer considers the support as income. The cash assistance is increased the next effective date.

(4) **Child support and other income exceeds cash assistance.** When a support payment is received that is greater than or equal to that month's TANF cash assistance, the TANF cash assistance must be closed the next effective date. If the TANF cash assistance is not closed timely, any child support payment received during that month or subsequent months is retained by OCSS for reimbursement of TANF payments made for those months or any preceding months. When child support, spousal support, or both, causes ineligibility, the family is entitled to continued medical benefits in accordance with OAC 340:10-3-75. Following reimbursement of all TANF cash assistance, any excess payment remaining is forwarded to the client.

(5) **Federal and/or state tax intercept payments.** Federal and/or state tax intercept is used for the collection of current and past due child support payments, including interest owed.

(A) Tax intercept payments collected by OCSS prior to the client's current receipt of TANF and held for six months may be distributed to the client and is considered as a resource the month following the month of receipt.

(B) Tax intercept payments collected for interest owed on past due child support may be forwarded to the client when the principle amount of past due child support has been paid off.
(c) Child support services after TANF closure. At the time the TANF benefit is closed, the client is advised that he or she can receive non-TANF Child Support Services with no further application, no fee required, nor charge for collection deducted. This service occurs automatically unless the client specifically requests in writing that OCSS not provide the service or the client becomes ineligible for non-TANF Child Support Services for some other reason.

INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF 340:10-10-7

Revised 7-1-10

1. This information is reported by updating the absent parent information on the Deprivation tab on Family Assistance/Client Services (FACS) and forwarding attachments, if any, by memo to the appropriate Oklahoma Child Support Services (OCSS) district office.

2. Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) Appendix C-16, Child Support Services and Responsibilities, is fully explained and given to the applicant at this time. When the client forwards payment to the Oklahoma Child Support Registry (OCSR), the client’s name, case number, and the name of the absent parent making the payment must be included. OKDHS Appendix C-16, page 4, lists the address of the OCSR.

3. Child support income is coded on the case at certification and removed using the unfinished issuance process. Child support income remaining on the case after certification is removed the next effective date. The worker issues a supplement for the TANF benefit for each month counted in error.


5. (a) Child support paid up to the monthly court-ordered support is considered available.

   (b) Any child support received in excess of the monthly court-ordered support, including cash medical, is assigned to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) for the reimbursement of prior months receipt of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

   (c) A recipient is not allowed to return the TANF benefits for a month the child support payment exceeds the TANF payment standard as it is not considered a lump sum payment.
6. See OAC 340:10-3-2.

7. This excess payment is considered as a non-recurring lump sum payment. See OAC 340:10-3-28(3).

Revised 7-1-10

(a) A person eligible to be included in a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefit, must be either:

(1) a citizen or a national of the United States (U.S.), including the 50 states, District of Columbia, commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and Northern Mariana Islands. A person may be a citizen of the U.S. by being born in the U.S. or by being born in some other country but moving to the U.S. and being granted U.S. citizenship through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) a bureau of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; or

(2) a qualified alien described as:

   (A) an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA);

   (B) an alien who is paroled into the U.S. under Section 212(d)(5) of INA for a period of at least one year;

   (C) an alien who is granted conditional entry pursuant to Section 203(a)(7) of INA as in effect prior to April 1, 1980;

   (D) an alien who is granted asylum under Section 208 of INA;

   (E) a refugee who is admitted to the U.S. under Section 207 of INA;

   (F) an alien whose deportation is withheld under Section 241(b)(3) of INA;

   (G) an alien who is a Cuban or Haitian entrant as defined in Section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980;

   (H) battered aliens and their children or parents as defined in Section 431(c) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act as amended; [8 U.S.C. 1641(c)]

   (I) an alien and his or her eligible relatives who are victims of a severe form of trafficking pursuant to Section 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 which was reauthorized and amended by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003; ■ 1


(b) A qualified alien who enters the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996, is not eligible for TANF benefits for a five year period beginning on the date of the alien's entry into the U.S. with a qualified alien status unless the alien is:

1. admitted to the U.S. as a refugee;
2. granted asylum;
3. one whose deportation is being withheld;
4. a Cuban or Haitian entrant;
5. admitted to the U.S. as an Amerasian immigrant;
6. lawfully residing in the state and is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces, on active duty, or is that person's spouse or unmarried dependent child; or
7. is a victim of a severe form of trafficking.

(c) A declaration of citizenship and alien status is required for all adults and children in the TANF benefit. This requirement is met when an adult member in the assistance unit completes and signs the application or review form attesting to the citizenship and alien status for all members of the assistance unit. Refer to OAC 340:65-3-1(g) for additional citizenship requirements for persons 14 years of age and older pursuant to Section 71 of Title 56 and Section 20j of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.
(d) Declaration on behalf of a newborn child may be delayed provided the delay does not exceed the date of the assistance unit's next eligibility redetermination.

(e) Persons determined as having satisfactory alien status must have the status verified through Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE). In situations which require a written inquiry to the USCIS, the worker must not delay, deny, terminate, or reduce benefits to an alien pending USCIS verification of submitted documentation.

(f) All persons born in the U.S. are, with rare exceptions, U.S. citizens. Documents of citizenship or national status of persons from certain U.S. territories or possessions listed in (a)(1) of this Section may not be in their possession nor available. Their status can usually be determined by birth certificate, passport, or other official document.